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## Office of Recovery Newsletter | April 8, 2022

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April 8, 2022



This week's edition of the Office of Recovery Newsletter features an update on the COVID-19 pandemic response. Governor Laura Kelly and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) announced that Kansas will be transitioning into a COVID-19 Endemic Response. Read more about this transition in the newsletter below.

Also included is an article highlighting information and resources that can help Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs) of local government submit the first ARPA funding Project and Expenditure Report that is due on **April 30, 2022**.

Also highlighted below is a program that provides \$51M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that will be distributed to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers to provide bonuses to direct care workers.

For the latest information about resources available to Kansans, see the "Updates to Services and Support" section of this newsletter. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the Office of Recovery website at: [COVID.ks.gov](https://COVID.ks.gov)

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## COVID-19 Update



## Governor Laura Kelly Announces Transition to COVID-19 Endemic Response

Last week, Governor Laura Kelly and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) announced their continued efforts to shift to the next chapter of the COVID-19 response, pivoting from emergency pandemic response to endemic normalcy. KDHE has made changes to continue the transition from emergency response to the “new normal,” which includes life with COVID-19—similar to how other recurring diseases like the flu are handled. Using the lessons learned over the past two years, KDHE will continue to ensure the State is prepared for potential surges or other needs that might arise in the future.

This decision comes as current COVID-19 metrics are moving in the right direction. Over the last two years, KDHE has made significant progress in keeping Kansas communities safe with the help of partners throughout the State: over 7 million tests have been given, over 4 million vaccines have been administered, and over 78% of eligible Kansans have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine.

Working with Local Health Departments (LHDs) and stakeholders, KDHE’s endemic plan addresses six key areas that are designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all Kansans:

- **Intervention:** KDHE will continue to provide comprehensive guidance, while continuing to offer additional assistance to underserved and/or vulnerable populations.
- **Vaccination:** KDHE will focus on making sure vulnerable populations have access to the COVID-19 vaccine while existing vaccine providers, including health care providers, pharmacists, hospitals, and LHDs, will continue to serve the broader population.
- **Treatment:** KDHE will continue to ensure Kansans will be able to

receive COVID-19 treatment across the State, as treatment distribution shifts away from public health entities and back to local health care providers.

- **Testing:** KDHE will continue to support access to free testing across the state through community testing sites, LHDs, and K-12 schools as long as federal funding is available. In addition, the federal government provides direct testing support to Federally Qualified Health Centers and pharmacies around the state. To find a free testing location near you, go to [knowbeforeyougoKS.com](https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/health-care/know-before-you-go). KDHE testing support for Long Term Care Facilities will be phased out on May 15, 2022, and testing support for employers ends on June 30, 2022.
- **Monitoring:** KDHE will continue to monitor data as reported by organizations and facilities across the state to understand the status of COVID-19 and proactively identify at-risk groups. Public reporting will be reduced to once a week.
- **Communications:** KDHE will continue to provide essential and accessible COVID information to keep Kansans safe and aware of any subsequent changes to COVID-19 response efforts.

Across each of the above areas, KDHE will remain prepared to ramp up capacity to quickly respond to a surge and keep Kansans safe should the need arise. For more information on COVID-19 testing, vaccines and other safety guidelines, visit [coronavirus.kdhe.ks.gov](https://coronavirus.kdhe.ks.gov).

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## Treasury Information





## **Be Prepared to Submit the ARPA Project and Expenditure Report by April 30, 2022**

As a reminder, all Non-Entitlement Units of government (NEUs) that accepted funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are required to submit the first Project and Expenditure Report to the US Treasury by the **deadline of April 30, 2022**.

NEUs are required to have an active [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) registration to complete reporting for ARPA funds. Please check your [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) account before the April 30, 2022, reporting deadline to ensure that the registration has not expired. The US Treasury Department is also implementing a transition from DUNS numbers to UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) numbers. An UEI number is automatically assigned to your city when you register with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov). You can also find this information on your [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) profile.

If you have any ARPA reporting questions such as the identity of the Authorized Representative or Point of Contact (POC), need signed awards documents (to include budget documentation) or have project and expenditure report questions, reach out to the Office of Recovery using the CONTACT US link on the [Office of Recovery website](https://www.recovery.gov).

For issues relating to reporting portal access, changing the Authorized Representative to access the portal or general reporting portal troubleshooting, e-mail the US Treasury directly at [SLFRP@Treasury.gov](mailto:SLFRP@Treasury.gov). Reporting resources and technical assistance webinars released by Treasury can be found [here](#).

If you update the Authorized Representative with Treasury, please also notify the Office of Recovery using the [CONTACT US link](#) to continue receiving resources and information from the Office of Recovery.

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## Program Spotlight



### **Governor Laura Kelly Announces \$51 Million in Bonus Payments to Direct Support Workers**

This week, Governor Laura Kelly announced \$51 million would be distributed to Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers beginning in June of this year. The bonuses will benefit approximately 24,000 direct support workers in the state. Each care worker could receive up to a \$2,000 bonus.

“Our direct care workers have worked tirelessly to provide exceptional care to vulnerable Kansans during the pandemic and beyond.” **Governor Laura**

**Kelly said.** “We recognize the hard work direct care workers do, and we’ll build on this opportunity as an incentive to recruit and retain qualified staff.”

Provider agencies will receive a payment amount based on their number of current direct care workers and immediate supervisors. All funds go directly to direct service workers and their immediate supervisors. Additionally, as an incentive to bring more direct support workers to the field, agencies will receive \$1,500 dollars per new staff for a recruitment bonus.

The bonus payments are available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) signed into law in March 2021 to provide enhanced federal funding for Medicaid HCBS through a one-year 10 percent increase to the state’s Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs). FMAPs are the percentage rates used to determine the amount of matching federal funds allocated annually for state expenditures to social services and state and medical insurance programs.

The distribution of that funding will be administered by KDADS and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The distribution plan has received federal approval and its goal is to improve access to quality services and increase capacity for Kansans, including those with disabilities and behavioral health challenges, to receive care in their homes and communities and to serve as a catalyst to enhance provider staffing to optimal levels and retain direct supports workers. Visit [kdads.gov/funding-opportunities](https://kdads.gov/funding-opportunities) for more information on this program.

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## Updates to Services and Support





## Office of Recovery Q&A Sessions

Join us on **Wednesday, April 13, at 11 a.m.** for an opportunity to ask the Office of Recovery questions about best practices, guidance from Treasury, upcoming deadlines, and other topics. These Q&A sessions are also an opportunity for local governments to share what they are doing and learn from one another.

You can join the session by registering here: [Register for Q&A Session](#)

## Stay Informed on the SPARK Process

The four SPARK Advisory Panels (Connectivity, Economic Revitalization, Efficiency and Modernization and Health and Education) are wrapping up the meeting process to develop their investment recommendations for the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in Kansas. All Advisory Panel meetings will be completed by Tuesday, April 12, 2022. The investment recommendations developed by the four Advisory Panels will be presented to the SPARK Executive Committee in the coming weeks. The Executive Committee will then consider these panel recommendations before finalizing its own recommendations and sending them to the State Finance Council, which has final authority on investment decisions.

All the remaining Advisory Panel meetings will be streamed live on the [Kansas Office of Recovery YouTube Page](#). All Advisory Panel meeting materials and recordings can be found on our website: [Advisory Panels Materials](#).

## Share your Story with the RO

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has allocated funding to each Non-Entitlement Unit (NEU) in Kansas that is meant to help cities recover from the impacts of COVID-19. These funds can be used to fit the unique needs of each city, and cities across Kansas are using their funds in creative and impactful ways. Do you already have a plan for your city's funding? Let us

know by using the **Contact Us** form in the top right-hand corner of [the RO website](#) and your city could be featured in a future RO newsletter.

## Contact the RO

The Office of Recovery is here to offer support and coordination. Questions and inquiries may be submitted via the [Contact Us](#) form. Please visit [covid.ks.gov](https://www.covid.ks.gov) for up-to-date information and resources on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas residents, businesses, and communities.

[Question/Request Form](#)

**DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D.**

Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

On behalf of the Office of Recovery,

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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